

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Withdrawn) A device for collecting and releasing a sample liquid, the device comprising:

a sample collector with a porous and dimensionally stable sampling tip for taking up the sample liquid in the sampling tip, the sampling tip having an indicator zone, which indicates the uptake of the sample liquid by means of a moisture indicator indicating a collecting of a predetermined volume of the sample liquid, the moisture indicator being one of an indicator dye, which shows a change in color in the presence of moisture and a material that expands in the presence of moisture; and

a pressure means for generating an overpressure in the pores of the sampling tip to release the sample liquid from the sampling tip, said pressure means being displaceable relative to the sample collector, and pushing together of said pressure means and said sample collector generating an overpressure in the sampling tip.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Withdrawn) A device in accordance with claim 1, wherein said pressure means is provided to bring about the penetration of a reagent liquid from a reagent container into the pores during the pushing together of the pressure means and of the sample collector.

4 - 35 (Cancelled)

36. (New) A system for collecting and releasing a sample liquid, the system comprising:

a sample collector having a cylindrical shape with first and second axial ends, said sample collector includes a sampling tip arranged at said first axial end, said sampling tip being formed of a porous material for collecting the sample liquid, said sample collector defining a cavity adjacent to said sampling tip;

a pressure device connectable with said sample collector for generating an overpressure in said sampling tip, said pressure device being arranged at said first axial end of said sample collector, the overpressure generated by said pressure device delivering the sample liquid from said sampling tip to said cavity of said sample collector.

37. (New) A system in accordance with claim 36, wherein:

said pressure device includes a container defining a volume, said first axial end of said sample collector being insertable into said volume to generate the overpressure.

38. (New) A system in accordance with claim 37, wherein:

said sample collector includes a sealing lip, said sealing lip sealing said volume of said container when said first axial end is inserted into said volume, said sealing lip and said sample tip being arranged and formed to have the overpressure generated when said sample collector is inserted into said volume, force the sample liquid from the sampling tip to said cavity of said sample collector.

39. (New) A system in accordance with claim 36, further comprising:

said pressure device includes a beaker-shaped reagent container with an impermeable inner surface, said beaker-shaped reagent container defines a volume which is open at one end, said sampling tip being insertable into said volume, wherein said sampling tip and said beaker-shaped reagent container fully enclose the volume when said sampling tip is inserted into said reagent container.

40. (New) A system in accordance with claim 39, wherein:

said sample collector includes a sealing lip, said sealing lip sealing said volume of said container when said first axial end is inserted into said volume so that said overpressure can be generated in the pores of the sampling tip.

41. (New) A system in accordance with claim 39, wherein:

said reagent container has a size and shape to press reagent liquid in said volume into pores of said sample collector when said sample collector is inserted into said reagent container.

42. (New) A system in accordance with claim 41, wherein:

said reagent container includes an overflow channel along an inner side open end for receiving excess reagent when said sample collector is inserted into said reagent container, said size and shape of said reagent container presses the reagent liquid into said cavity of said sample collector when said sample collector is inserted into said chamber.

43. (New) A system in accordance with claim 36, wherein:

said material of said sampling tip is treated with an additional material to further absorb the sample liquid.

44. (New) A system in accordance with claim 36, wherein:

said sampling tip has a moisture indicator which indicates a collection of the predetermined amount of sample liquid in said sampling tip.

45. (New) A system in accordance with claim 44, wherein:

said moisture indicator is one of an indicator dye and a material that expands in the presence of moisture.

46. (New) A system in accordance with claim 44, wherein:

said sampling tip has an outer portion extending out of said first axial end of said sample collector, said sampling tip having an inner portion arranged inside said sample collector; said moisture indicator being arranged at said inner portion of said sampling tip.

47. (New) A system in accordance with claim 36, wherein:

said material of said sampling tip is dimensionally stable during collection of the sample liquid, said material of said sampling tip collecting the predetermined amount of the sample liquid by capillary action.

48. (New) A system in accordance with claim 36, wherein:

said cavity is arranged inside said sample collector

49. (New) A system in accordance with claim 37, wherein:

said pressure means is displaceable relative to said sample collector, and pushing together of said pressure means and said sample collector generates the overpressure in said sampling tip to release the sample liquid from the sampling tip into said cavity, said pressure means is provided to bring about penetration of a reagent liquid from said container into said sampling tip during the pushing together of said pressure means and said sample collector.

50. (New) A system in accordance with claim 37, further comprising:

a reagent liquid arranged in said container.

51. (New) A system in accordance with claim 50, wherein:

said reagent container has a size and shape to press the reagent liquid in said container into pores of said sample collector when said sample collector is inserted into said container.

52. (New) A system in accordance with claim 51, wherein:

said reagent container includes an overflow channel along an inner side at said open end for receiving excess reagent when said sample collector is inserted into said chamber.

said size and shape of said reagent container presses the reagent liquid into a cavity of said sample collector when said sample collector is inserted into said chamber.